WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An image processing method for search for an original data file corresponding to an input image, comprising the steps of:

5   (a) acquiring first search information associated with the input image on the basis of information input by a user;

         (b) acquiring feature data contained in the input image as second search information; and

10   (c) searching for an original data file corresponding to the input image by using the first and second search information.

2.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

15   (d) registering the first search information as an index for searching for the original data file in an index file.

3.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the first search information comprises a keyword for

20   search.

4.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the first search information comprises a data size of the original data file.

5.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the

25   first search information comprises date information of the original data file.

6.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the

second search information comprises information associated with a storage location of the original data file which is extracted on the basis of pointer information in the input image.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the second search information comprises a character code of a character recognition result which is obtained by performing a character recognition process with respect to a character region in the input image.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the second search information comprises feature data of each block obtained by region segmentation of the input image.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(e) converting the input image into vector data when no original data file can be searched in the step (c).

10. The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:

(f) converting the input image, which has been converted into the vector data, into data in a format which can be handled by application software.

11. The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:

(g) storing the input image which has been converted into the vector data in a database.

12.　The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:

(h) registering the first search information, in an index file, as an index for searching for an image

5　represented by vector data stored in a database in the step (c).

13.　The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(i) outputting the searched original data,

10　wherein pointer information is added to the output original data file.

14.　The method according to claim 13, wherein the pointer information is added as a digital watermark to the original data file.

15　15.　The method according to claim 1, wherein in the step (c), the original data file is searched for by using at least one of keyword search, full-text search, and layout search.

16.　An image processing system which searches for an

20　original data file corresponding to an input image, comprising:

means for acquiring first search information associated with the input image on the basis of information input by a user;

25　means for acquiring feature data contained in the input image as second search information; and

means for searching for an original data file

corresponding to the input image by using the first and second search information.

17.   A computer executable program stored on a computer-readable medium for search for an original

5   data file corresponding to an input image, comprising:

code for acquiring first search information associated with the input image on the basis of information input by a user;

code for acquiring feature data contained in the

10   input image as second search information; and

code for searching for an original data file corresponding to the input image by using the first and second search information.

18.   A computer-readable medium having a computer

15   executable program stored thereon for search for an original data file corresponding to an input image, the program comprising:

code for acquiring first search information associated with the input image on the basis of

20   information input by a user;

code for acquiring feature data contained in the input image as second search information; and

code for searching for an original data file corresponding to the input image by using the first and

25   second search information.